SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5297** TRICKY **B5297**

9		3						
			9			3		1
				4			2	
	5		8	9		4		6
1						5		
8			4		7			
4		6	7	8				2
		7	1					4
				6		7	5	8

								3
	8	2	7		1		4	9
7	3		4		9		1	8
			1			6		
8	7							
9								
					3		5	
4			5		2		9	
		1						

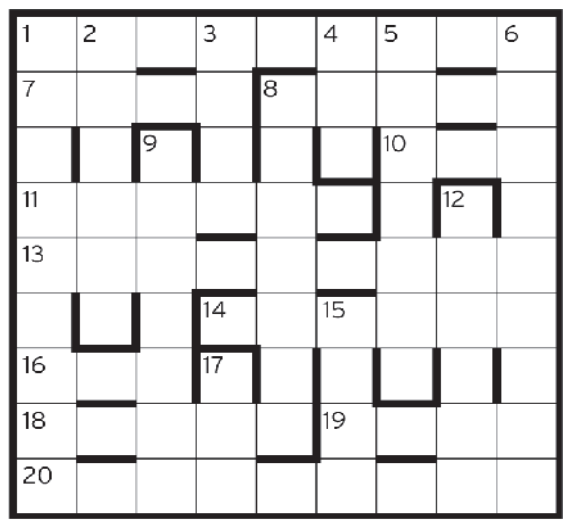
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

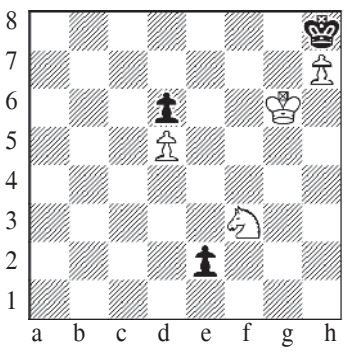
1 Shuffle (9)
7 Jealousy (4)
8 Pulls along the ground (5)
10 Dram (3)
11 Cavort (6)
13 Rather mow (anag.) (9)
14 Rupture (6)
16 Hot drink (3)
18 Relieves (5)
19 Run away (4)
20 Catastrophes (9)



DOWN

1 Well-thought-of (9)
2 Ensnare (6)
3 _ Reynolds, actor (4)
4 _ Garfunkel, singer (3)
5 Countries (7)
6 Approximates (9)
8 Duke's wife (7)
9 Dead body of an animal (7)
12 Author (6)
15 Fissure (4)
17 Aisling _, comedian (3)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY

HINT: BEWARE OF STALEMATE.

Solution:
1. Ng5! e1=Q 2. Nf7 mate! If instead 1. Kh6, ... e1=Q 2. Nxe1 is a stalemate.

TARGET

T	E	I
T	P	G
I	O	N

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 16;

Very good 24;

Excellent 32 (or more).

Solution monday.

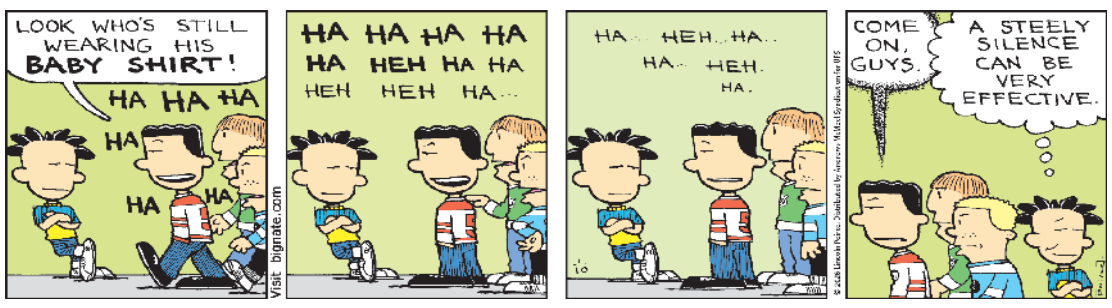
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

UNENGAGED

aged ague dengue dung edge egged engage engaged gage gang ganged gangue gaud gauge gauged gean geed gene gunge gunged gunned nagged nudge UNENGAGED

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


LOOK WHO'S STILL WEARING HIS BABY SHIRT!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HEH HA HA HEH HEH HA...
HA... HEH.. HA.. HA... HEH. HA.
COME ON, GUYS.
A STEELY SILENCE CAN BE VERY EFFECTIVE.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

IF YOU'RE COLD, THEY'RE COLD. BRING THEM INSIDE
I'M GOING HOME TO MOTHER
Dist. by Creators
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1-10-26
JohnHartStudios.com

BABY BLUES

I'M SO GLAD CHRISTMAS IS OVER SO I DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD ANYMORE.
WHAT ABOUT EASTER?
IF YOU'RE NOT GOOD, THE EASTER BUNNY WON'T BRING YOU ANY CANDY.
ONLY SIX YEARS OLD, AND I'M ALREADY A SLAVE TO BIG HOLIDAY!
1/10

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:55pm	05:20pm	06:00pm	05:19pm	05:25pm	05:55pm
Sunrise	07:13am	07:10am	07:17am	07:01am	07:17am	07:25am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	2	14	Partly Cloudy	83	4	14	Partly Cloudy		4	14	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	6	22	Sunny	43	6	23	Sunny		7	24	Sunny
Islamabad	5	17	Sunny	58	7	17	Partly Cloudy		6	17	Mostly Cloudy
Lahore	4	14	Partly Cloudy	80	5	14	Mostly Sunny		5	14	Mostly Sunny
Multan	4	15	Fog	86	5	15	Mostly Cloudy		4	16	Mostly Sunny
Peshawar	3	17	Sunny	59	5	18	Mostly Cloudy		4	18	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	-1	11	Sunny	50	2	13	Cloudy		1	14	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
SOLICITOUS

(SOLICITOUS: so-LIH-sih-tus: Meticulously careful.)

Average mark 29 words
Time limit 50 minutes

Can you find 44 or more words in SOLICITOUS?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – INSPECT

inept	sine	stein
insect	site	step
inset	snip	pectin
instep	snipe	pent
nest	snit	pest
nice	spec	pine
nicest	spent	pint
scent	spice	piste
sect	spin	epic
sent	spine	cent
sept	spinet	cite
septic	spit	tine
since	spite	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Detective
7 Tragic
9 Reptile
10 Knob
12 Oil
13 Trained
14 Eat
15 Town
17 Slipped
19 Stress
20 September.

DOWN

1 Darkness
2 Eden
3 Tip
4 Criticise
5 Talent
6 Vivid
8 Cylinder
11 Ballet
13 Taste
16 Were
18 Pub.

METRO EVENTS

FLOWER SHOW

'Gul-i-Dawoodi Flower Show 2026' is held at Hazrat Khadijatul Qubra Park, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Block 13A, at 4:30pm.

MUSHAIRA

A mushaira is being organised at Eidgah Ground, Nazimbad, at 8pm.

FUSION NIGHT

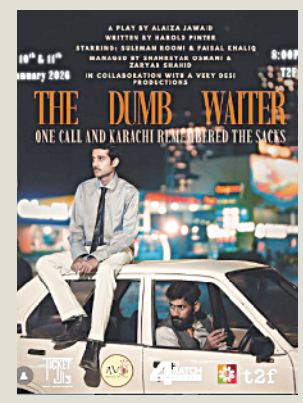
'Entrepreneurs Fusion Night' at Sindh Youth Club Karachi, Block 15, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, at 8pm.

CONFERENCE

An inaugural session of the 'International Medical Education Conference 2026' is held at Convention Centre, Liaquat National Hospital, at 9am.

PLAY

The Dumb Waiter, a play, is staged at T2F at 8pm.



HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

** Today you need to be patient when dealing with partners, bosses, close friends and parents, because someone will rankle you or get under your skin. Avoid unnecessary conflicts. Who needs this? Stay chill. After all, you look good. Tonight: Be polite. Listen.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

** Issues might arise today with co-workers or healthcare workers, or something to do with a pet. The bottom line is that people are quick to argue and be impatient with each other. Fortunately, your own sense of optimism might save the day. Tonight: Get involved with work.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** You would like to socialize and enjoy yourself today. However, you might be encountering difficulties with people about shared expenses or the cost of something, or perhaps you're dealing with taxes or inheritances. Whatever the case, this could create trouble. Baby steps. Baby steps. Tonight: Relax.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

** Do what you can to keep the peace at home today, because everyone, including you, will be happier if conflict is kept to a minimum. Ask yourself if any of this will really matter five years from now. Put things in perspective. Cut someone some slack. Tonight: Home and family.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** People are argumentative today, including you. However, you have a choice. You can enter into the fray or you can look for ways to smooth over troubled water. People admire you and look to you as a role model. Live up to the expectations that you see in their eyes. (What do you have to lose?) Tonight: Diplomacy.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

** Money squabbles or disappointments might arise today, especially related to social outings, sports events or dealing with your kids. Obviously, some social plans might get derailed. Accept what's happening and don't belabor things. Be the adult. Tonight: Be thrifty.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

** You might be a bit more emotional than usual because the Moon is in your sign today. This could be why conflicts at home or with family members are a problem. Don't add fuel to the fire. You can be part of the solution or part of the problem. What's it going to be? Tonight: Tread carefully.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

** You might choose to hide somewhere and keep a low profile. You want to steer clear of people because you can feel tension in the air. And you're right! Today many of the planets in the heavens are at odds with each other. As above, so below. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Be patient when talking to friends or members of groups today, especially about financial matters, contributions or how to spend a specific amount of money. Or perhaps someone is critical of a purchase you made. Whatever the case, don't get your belly in a rash. Relax. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

** This is not the day to ask for approval or permission from an authority figure like your parent, boss or even the police. Don't do it. Many planets are at odds with each other today, which is why many people are at loggerheads. Go along to get along. Tonight: Show respect.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** Steer clear of sensitive topics and controversial subjects, because you'll be in trouble in a New York minute. Sometimes one can tackle these topics with friends or anyone who wants to debate the merits of various ideas. Today, however, people will be closed-minded and rigid. Tonight: Study and learn.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

** Disagreements about shared property, anything that is jointly held or how to spend a limited amount of money are likely today. Decide not to get bogged down in these quarrels. Anger makes everyone miserable, including you. Take the high road. (The view is better.) Tonight: Check your finances.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

How to capture a king

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 2
♥ K 9 6
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ A J 3

WEST
♠ A J
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 7 6 5 2

EAST
♠ K Q 10 8 3
♥ 5
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ K 8 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ A Q J 8 3
♦ K 5
♣ Q 10 9

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead -- ace of spades.

There is no advantage in butting your head against a stone wall. When the evidence indicates that a normal line of play will lead to defeat, it is surely advisable to seek another approach that offers at least some chance of success.

Consider this deal where South loses the first three spade tricks. East then shifts to the jack of diamonds, taken with the king, and it appears that South must rely on a club finesse to make the contract.

But the bidding tells declarer that East almost surely has the king of clubs for his vulnerable overcall. South should therefore seek some way other than a club finesse to escape a club loser.

After due deliberation, South sees a light at the end of the tunnel. He begins by cashing the A-K of trump, East showing out, and then makes his bid for fame and fortune by cashing the ace of clubs, deliberately shunning the finesse. Next comes the Q-J of trump, producing this position:

North
♦ A Q 8
♣ J

West Immaterial

East
♦ 10 9 6
♣ K

South
♥ 8
♦ 5
♣ Q 10

When South now cashes the eight of hearts, discarding the jack of clubs from dummy, East is kaput. Whatever he discards, declarer wins the rest of the tricks.

In adopting this line of play, South rejects the tempting club finesse in favor of an approach that will succeed if East has four or more diamonds in addition to the king of clubs. Given the circumstances, this offers declarer his best chance of getting home safely.

Tomorrow: You can win 'em all.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5296

8	2	7	4	9	1	5	3	6
6	3	4	8	7	5	1	2	9
1	5	9	3	2	6	4	8	7
9	1	6	5	3	2	7	4	8
3	4	5	1	8	7	6	9	2
7	8	2	6	4	9	3	5	1
4	9	3	7	6	8	2	1	5
5	7	8	2	1	3	9	6	4
2	6	1	9	5	4	8	7	3

Tricky — B5296

8	7	4	2	5	9	6	1	3
5	1	6	8	4	3	2	9	7
3	2	9	7	1	6	5	4	8
1	8	7	3	9	5	4	6	2
2	4	5	6	8	7	1	3	9
9	6	3	4	2	1	8	7	5
7	9	8	1	6	2	3	5	4
6	5	2	9	3	4	7	8	1
4	3	1	5	7	8	9	2	6